

## Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 211009Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1054

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

S E C R E T KUALA LUMPUR 5019

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, MY, SN

SUBJ: MALAYSIAN M-16 PURCHASE

REF: A. KUALA LUMPUR 4382; B. KUALA LUMPUR 4295

1. COLT REP ROB ROY ARRIVED HERE YESTERDAY (AUGUST 20) AS PROMISED (REF A) TO START NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD GOM PURCHASE OF M-16'S. TODAY (AUGUST 21) HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD EVERY EXPECTATION THAT DEAL WOULD BE WORKED OUT BUT THAT IT WOULD BE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR COLT TO DELIVER 10,000 M-16'S SOMETIME IN FALL. ACCORDING TO HIM, COLT STILL HOPING TO GET USG AGREEMENT TO ALLOW DIVERSION OF RIFLES FROM COLT PRODUCTION EARMARKED FOR U.S. ARMY; HIS LATEST READING FROM WASHINGTON WAS NOT RPT NOT ENCOURAGING ON THIS SCORE BUT HE THOUGHT COLT WOULD SOMEHOW BE ABLE TO GET THE 10,000 (IMPLYING POSSIBILITY COLT WOULD FIND SOURCE OTHER THAN U.S. ARMY). HE ADDED THAT IF THERE NO DELIVERY THIS FALL, PURCHASE WAS PROBABLY OFF.

2. AFTERNOON OF AUG 21, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE SUDDENLY ASKED ARMY ATTACHE COL. RICHARD EWAN TO ATTEND A MEETING. SUBJECT WAS FMS CREDIT. MINDEF AND MINFINANCE OFFICIALS TOLD EWAN THAT THIRTY DAYS HAD PASSED AND THEY HAD EXPECTED TO HEAR SOMETHING FROM CROWE TEAM ON SUBJECT OF FMS. IN A WORD, WAS THE  
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USG OFFERING ANY CREDIT. THIS HAD A DIRECT BEARING

ON THEIR NEGOTIATIONS. EWAN REPLIED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO WORD FROM WASHINGTON RE FMS SINCE DEPARTURE OF ADMIRAL CROWE AND HIS TEAM, BUT THAT EMBASSY WOULD ASK WASHINGTON STATUS OF GOM REQUEST.

3. I ALSO HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR BRIEF WORD WITH SEC GEN MINDEF. BASED ON THAT CONVERSATION AND ALL OUR PREVIOUS ONES (REF B AND PREVIOUS), THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE QUESTION OF DELIVERY IS CRUCIAL. WITHOUT AN EARLY DELIVERY OF 10,000 RIFLES GOM WILL TURN TO TOHER SOURCES IF IT CAN FIND THEM. GOM IS ALSO INTERESTED IN FMS BUT IT DOUBTFUL THAT CONSUMMATION OF OF M-16 PURCHASE RESTS ON AVAILABILITY OF CREDIT. THEY WILL PROBABLY BUY M-16'S FOR CASH IF NECESSARY, BUT THEY NEED TO KNOW WHAT FMS CREDIT POSSIBILITIES ARE SO THEY CAN PLAN.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: ADMIRAL CROWE DID TELL GOM DURING HIS VISIT THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME REACTION FROM WASHINGTON IN THIRTY DAYS. WHAT SHOULD WE TELL GOM?  
DILLON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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